



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

July 11, 2012

Ms. Karen Jurist
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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/SITE INSPECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, TASK G4: ABANDONED MINE GROUP SUPPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012

Dear Ms. Jurist:

This letter transmits the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) completed activities for the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) Cooperative Agreement, Task G-4: Abandoned Mine Group Support for fiscal year (FY) 2011/2012. In summary, the purpose of the Task G-4 activity is for DTSC to:

- Collaborate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Mines Coordination Group in prioritizing work on inactive and abandoned non-National Priorities List (NPL) abandoned mine sites in U.S. EPA, Region 9.
- Provide effective coordination on abandoned mine sites with U.S. EPA Superfund Division and act as a state liaison with other agencies and stakeholders involved with sites of regional interest.
- Coordinate with U.S. EPA to recommend site-specific activities for further action and resource allocation on abandoned mine sites.

Associated DTSC deliverables are to:

- Participate in meetings (quarterly) with U.S. EPA Mines Coordination Group, and other agencies and stakeholders identified by U.S. EPA.
- Collaborate with U.S. EPA to apply the U.S. EPA's Inactive and Abandoned Mines Priority Criteria to DTSC's highest priority sites.
- Provide U.S. EPA with a current listing of DTSC and Water Boards abandoned mine site priorities.

- Provide U.S. EPA with location maps of DTSC and Water Boards abandoned mine site priorities.
- Provide U.S. EPA with three initial draft Site Screenings for abandoned mine sites that the workgroup identifies.

Approach to Implementing PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 2011/2012, Task G4: Abandoned Mine Group Support

The following is a summary of DTSC's approach to implementing the PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, Task G-4: Abandoned Mine Group Support.

1) Participate in Meetings with U.S. EPA Mines Coordination Group, and Other Agencies and Stakeholders Identified by U.S. EPA

DTSC participated in a U.S. EPA Mining Coordination Group meeting/video conference on 12/2/2011. DTSC discussed site screening information for Picacho State Recreation Area (Picacho Mill) located in Imperial County, Robert Lewis Stevenson State Park (Silverado Mine) located in Napa County, and State Lands Commission Parcels (Buckeye Mine) located in Sonoma County. DTSC also discussed site background information, status of interim activities, and potential tailings dam safety issues for the Argonaut Tailings site located in Jackson, Amador County. "PowerPoint" presentations for the above discussions were given during the meeting and electronic copies were provided to U.S. EPA.

2) Collaborate with U.S. EPA to Apply U.S. EPA's Inactive and Abandoned Mines Priority Criteria to DTSC's Highest Priority Sites

Initially, the meeting/video conference of 12/2/2011 was to apply U.S. EPA's Inactive and Abandoned Mine Priority Criteria to one or more of DTSC highest priority sites. Subsequently, the focus of the meeting was to discuss the site screening information for Picacho State Recreation Area (Picacho Mill), Robert Lewis Stevenson State Park (Silverado Mine), and State Lands Commission Parcels (Buckeye Mine); and the background and site status of the Argonaut Tailings site.

3) Provide U.S. EPA with a Current Listing of DTSC and Water Boards Abandoned Mine Site Priorities

Sources of information used for preparing the Abandoned Mine Site Priorities (referred to as "DTSC/Water Boards Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Priority Sites Short List" table) are from:

- The Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation's letter, dated 3/30/2007 to Senator Feinstein which includes a list of priority abandoned mine sites having physical hazards and a list of priority abandoned mine sites having environmental hazards (referred to as the "2007 AML Priority List", aka: "AML Feinstein List").
- New information from the Water Boards, primarily the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (CVRWQCB).
- Information from "Inventory and Assessment of Abandoned Mines on California Agency Owned Lands" (Department of Conservation 8/2009).
- New information from San Bernardino County, Land Use Services Department, Environmental and Mining Section in the vicinity of the Calico Mine Complex.

The DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List identifies 33 abandoned mine sites and includes information regarding site data and current site status, though for most sites little data is available and the status is unknown. Land ownership for each site is categorized as being private, local community, mixed private and federal, and state. Sites having private/federal ownership are included because the respective sites have mine waste on both private and federal land and the extent of information known about respective private land is generally unknown. Other sites like Union Mine, Calaveras Mine, Keystone Mine, and Argonaut Mine Tailings have more information/data and are candidates for applying U.S. EPA's Inactive and Abandoned Mine Priority Criteria or re-ranking, as is the case for the Argonaut Tailings site.

The format and primary source of information used in preparing the DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List is from the 2007 AML Priority List. At the request of Senator Feinstein, the 2007 AML Priority List was prepared with the cooperation and input from 15 federal and state agencies. The environmental hazard list consists of 117 abandoned mine sites and is organized into three tiers based on past and estimated future costs. The list is further sorted by the problem contaminate (e.g., acid rock drainage, mercury, arsenic, and lead). Additionally, each site is ranked as high, medium, or low priority for water quality and human health exposure. The respective priorities for water quality and human health exposure are relative to one another and are not defined (e.g., each contributing agency ranked its respective sites independent of other agencies).

DTSC coordinated with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRQCB) and CVRWQCB for support in identifying sites for the current abandoned mine site priorities list and for site screening. DTSC's

coordination, primarily with CVRWQCB, consisted of several meetings in which CVRWQCB identified abandoned mine sites that were not identified in the 2007 AML Priority List. Seven of these sites were selected for site screening under Task G-2, Site Screening and Reassessment, PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 2011/2012 based on high water quality priority reported by CVRWQCB. Many of these sites are located in Napa County.

DTSC also coordinated with California Parks and Recreation and California State Lands Commission for support in identifying sites for site screening based on the "Inventory and Assessment of Abandoned Mines on California Agency Owned Lands" report. Three California Parks and Recreation sites and 1 California State Lands Commission site were identified as being candidates for potential site screening under this task based on medium priority for water quality and/or human health exposure. Other criteria used for selecting these sites was based on site specific information/data included in the subject report and consideration was given to state owned land. These sites were not identified in the 2007 AML Priority List. Three of the four sites were selected for site screening under this task. [Refer to 5), below and enclosed DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List].

Following the selection of the three sites for site screening under this task, DTSC coordinated with San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department (LUSD) for support in identifying sites for future site screening in the vicinity of the Calico Mine Complex. Four San Bernardino County LUSD sites were identified as being future candidates for potential site screening based on high priority for water quality and human health exposure reported by San Bernardino County LUSD.

Malakoff Diggins was subsequently added to the DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List following an inquiry from U.S. EPA.

4) Provide U.S. EPA with Location Maps of DTSC and Water Boards Abandoned Mine Site Priorities

DTSC prepared 1 state-wide map and 14 site specific maps identifying the location of 33 AML sites which are identified on the DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List.

The site specific maps identify AML sites, local land ownership (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, California Parks and Recreation, California State Lands Commission, and Unclassified), parcel boundaries, and an "enlargement window" for respective sites.

5) Provide U.S. EPA With 3 Initial Draft Site Screenings for Abandoned Mine Sites that the Workgroup Identifies

Based on the site screening information that DTSC prepared (and presented to U.S. EPA on 12/2/2011) for Picacho State Recreation Area (Picacho Mill), Robert Lewis Stevenson State Park (Silverado Mine), and State Lands Commission Parcels (Buckeye Mine), U.S. EPA determined that there was enough information/data for these sites to proceed to a Preliminary Assessment (PA) instead of completing site screenings. Subsequently, U.S. EPA, DTSC, California State Lands Commission and California Parks and Recreation participated in a conference call on 2/27/2012 to discuss implementing PAs for the respective sites. California State Lands Commission requested that U.S. EPA proceed with a PA for the State Lands Commission Parcels (Buckeye Mine). California Parks and Recreation was to evaluate whether to proceed with a PA for Picacho State Recreation Area (Picacho Mill) or Robert Lewis Stevenson State Park (Silverado Mine) and follow up with U.S. EPA.

Site screenings were conducted on 7 sites under Task G-2, Site Screening and Reassessment, PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 011/2012. [Refer to enclosed DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List].

Recommendations

The DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List may be used as a source of information for identifying sites for site screening for the PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 2012/2013. The 2007 AML Priority List should be updated with input from the original 15 federal and state agencies, including defining criteria used for ranking sites based on water quality and human health exposure.

Please contact me at 916-255-3591 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Randy Adams, C.E.G.
Senior Engineering Geologist
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

Enclosures (2)

cc: See next page.

Ms. Karen Jurist
July 11, 2012
Page 6 of 7

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Page 7 of 7

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DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List (as of 6/2012)

Name	Owner	Admin. Agency [5]	County	Problem	WQ	HH	Comments
Malakoff Diggins Mine	SP	SP/DOC/DTSC	Nevada	MeHg	H	L	Some Data [2]
Picacho SRA (Picacho Mill)	SP	SP/DOC/DTSC	Imperial	Pb, As, MeHg	M	M	Some data [2] Selected for Site Screening (Task G-4)
Providence Mountains SRA (C&K Mine)	SP	SP/DOC/DSTC	San Bernardino	Pb, As	L	M	Some data [2]
Robert Lewis Stevenson SP (Silverado Mine)	SP	SP/DOC/DSTC	Napa	MeHg, ARD	H	M	Some data [2] Selected for Site Screening (Task G-4)
SLC Parcels (Buckeye Mine)	SLC	SLC/DOC/DTSC	Sonoma	Hg	M	M	Some data [2] Selected for Site Screening (Task G-4)
Daggette Mill	PVT	San Bernardino County	San Bernardino	As, Pb, Hg	H	H	Data and status unknown [4]
Oriental Mill	PVT/SB County	San Bernardino County	San Bernardino	As, Pb, Hg	H	H	Data and status unknown [4]
Waterloo Mill	PVT/SB County	San Bernardino County	San Bernardino	As, Pb, Hg	H	H	Data and status unknown [4]
Pacific Coast Borax Mill	PVT	San Bernardino County	San Bernardino	As	H	H	Data and status Unknown [4]
Great Western Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Lake	As, Hg, ARD	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
Wall Street Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Lake	As, Hg, ARD,	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
Red Elephant Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Lake	As, Hg, ARD	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
White Elephant Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Lake	As, Hg, ARD	H	?	Data and status unknown [3]
Oat Hill Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Napa	As, Hg, ARD	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
Knoxville Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Napa	As, Hg, ARD	H	M	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
S Bar S Quarry	PVT	RWQCB	Lake	Hg	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)
Quartz Valley Mill	PVT	RWQCB	Siskiyou	As, Hg,	H	?	Data and status unknown [3], Selected for Site Screening (Task G-2)

See Page 2 for Notes, Abbreviations, and Terms

DTSC/Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List (as of 6/2012)

Name	Owner	Admin. Agency [5]	County	Problem	WQ	HH	Comments
Yankee Jims Mine	PVT	Unknown	Placer	Hg	M	M	Data and status unknown
Argonaut Mine Tailings	PVT	DTSC	Amador	As	L	H	Fence/post, IRAW for portion of site delayed [7]
Sonoma Mine	BLM/PVT	BLM	Sonoma	Hg	H	L	Some data, status unknown
Contact Mine/Mill	BLM/PVT	BLM	Sonoma	Hg	H	L	Some data, status unknown
Helen Mine	BLM/PVT	BLM	Lake	Hg	H	L	Some data, status unknown
Gold Run Mine	PVT/BLM	BLM	Placer	Hg, ARD	L	H	Some data, status unknown
Starr Mine	PVT/BLM	BLM	Nevada	Hg,	L	M	Some data, status unknown
Cherokee Mine	PVT/BLM	BLM	Butte	Hg	L	H	Some data, status unknown
Spanish Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Nevada	ARD	L	L	NPDES permit issued, Data unknown.
Newton Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Amador	ARD	M	M	Some data, status unknown
Greenhorn Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Shasta	ARD	M	L	Some data, status unknown
Kennedy Mine (Oro De Amador Tailings)	Jackson	DTSC	Amador	As	M	M	PA, PEA, TSI, TBA, work completed. Inactive, needs action
Keystone Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Calaveras	ARD	H	L	Some data [6] [7]
Union Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Calaveras	ARD	H	L	Some data [6] [7]
Union - Calaveras Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Calaveras	ARD	H	L	Some data [6] [7]
Calaveras Mine	PVT	RWQCB	Calaveras	ARD	H	L	Some data [6] [7]

Notes:

- 1) The format of DTSC / Water Boards AML Priority Sites Short List table is based on the "2007 AML Priority List" (aka: "AML Feinstein" List) which was prepared by 15 federal and state agencies.
- 2) Information from "Inventory and Assessment of Abandoned Mines on California Agency-Owned Lands" (DOC 2009).
- 3) Information from RWQCB, Central Valley Region (10/18/11 and 11/1/11 meetings with DTSC). Information regarding "Problem" and "Water Quality Priority" is presumed based on general knowledge of the watershed in this location.
- 4) Information from San Bernardino County, Land Use Services Department - Environmental and Mining Section (1/5/2012 and 1/13/2012 email communication with DTSC). Located in Daggett.
- 5) Administrative Agency - Is the agency having knowledge and /or involvement with the site.
- 6) Located in Copperopolis. Site Screening 1989 & 2008.
- 7) Recommend applying U.S. EPA's Inactive and Abandoned Mine Priority Criteria.

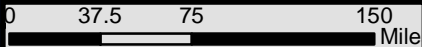
Abbreviations and Terms:

WQ = Water Quality Priority; **HH** = Human Health Priority. Relative Ranking for Human Health and Water Quality: **H** = High; **M** = Medium; **L** = Low. **As** = Arsenic, **Pb** = Lead; **Hg** = Mercury; **MeHg** = Methylmercury; **ARD** = Acid Rock Drainage. **PVT** = Private; **SP** = State Parks; **SLC** = State Lands Commission; **DTSC** = Department of Toxic Substances Control; **RWQCB** = Regional Water Quality Control Board; **DOC** = Department of Conservation; **BLM** = Bureau of Land Management. **AML** = Abandoned Mine Lands; **PA** = Preliminary Assessment; **PEA** = Preliminary Endangerment Assessment; **TSI** = Targeted Site Brownfields Investigation; **TBA** = Targeted Brownfields Assessment; **IRAW** = Interim Removal Action Workplan; **NPDES** = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; **Task G-2** = Site Screening and Reassessment, PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 2011/2012; **Task G-4** = AML Site Screening, PA/SI Cooperative Agreement, FY 2011/2012.

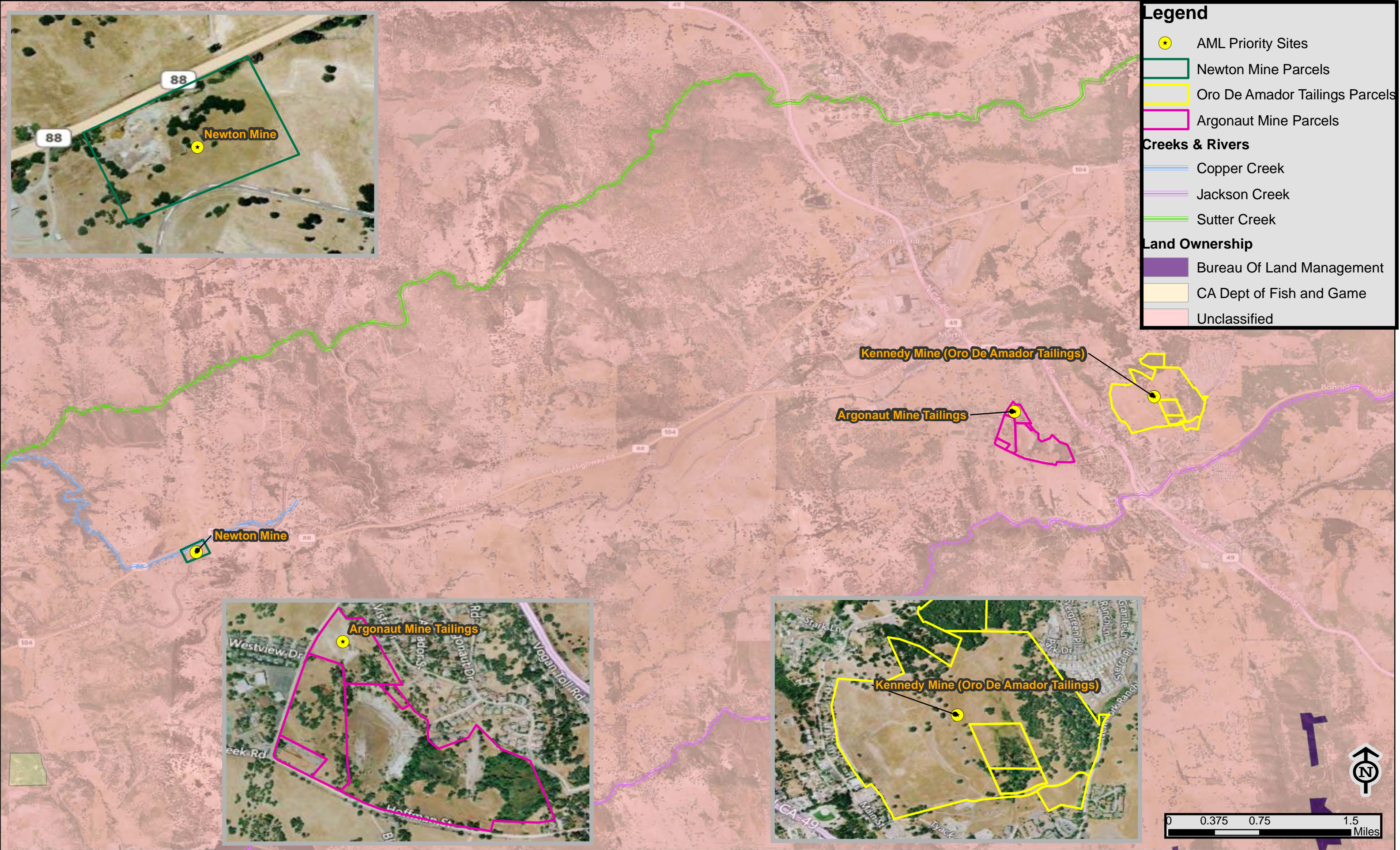
Map of the Western United States showing the locations of various mines and mills. The map covers California, Nevada, and parts of Oregon, Idaho, and Arizona. Mines and mills are marked with yellow dots and labeled with orange text. The labels include:

- Quartz Valley Mill
- Greenhorn Mine
- Red Elephant Mine
- White Elephant Mine
- S Bar S Quarry
- SLC Parcels (Buckeye Mine)
- Contact Mine/Mill
- Helen Mine
- Sonoma Mine
- Wall Street Mine
- Great Western Mine
- Robert Lewis Stevenson SP (Silverado Mine)
- Oat Hill Mine
- Newton Mine
- Copperopolis-Union Mine
- Copperopolis-Union & Calaveras Mines
- Cherokee Mine
- Malakoff Diggins SHP
- Spanish Mine
- Starr Mine
- Gold Run Mine
- Yankee Jims
- Kennedy Mine (Oro De Amador Tailings)
- Argonaut Mine Tailings
- Copperopolis-Keystone Mine
- Copperopolis-Calaveras Mine
- Daggette Mill
- Providence Mountains SRA (C&K Mine)
- Pacific Coast Borax Mill
- Picacho SRA (Picacho Mill)
- Waterloo Mill
- Oriental Mill

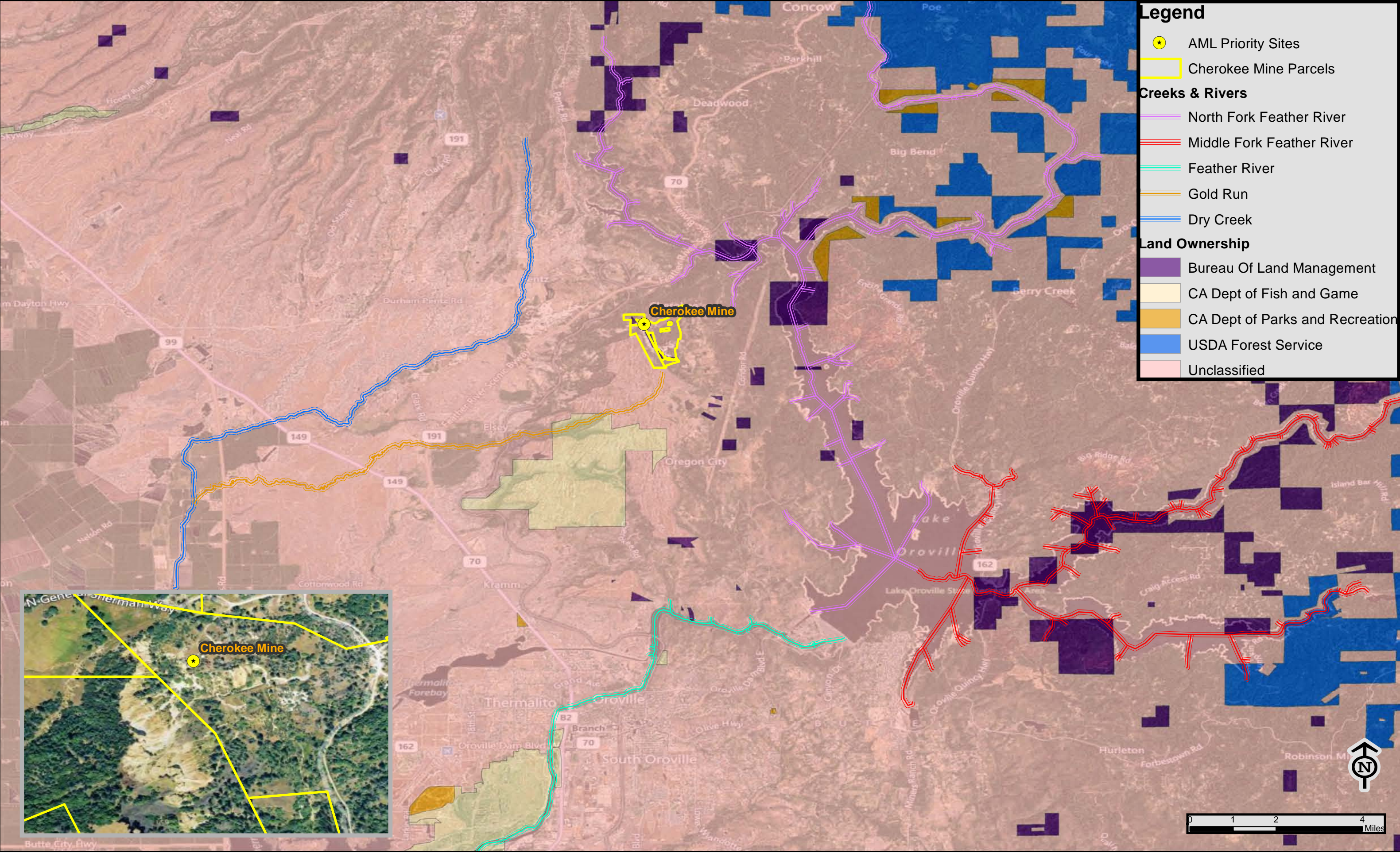
The map also shows major cities, highways, and geographical features like the Sierra Nevada and the Great Salt Lake.



AML Priority Sites-Amador County



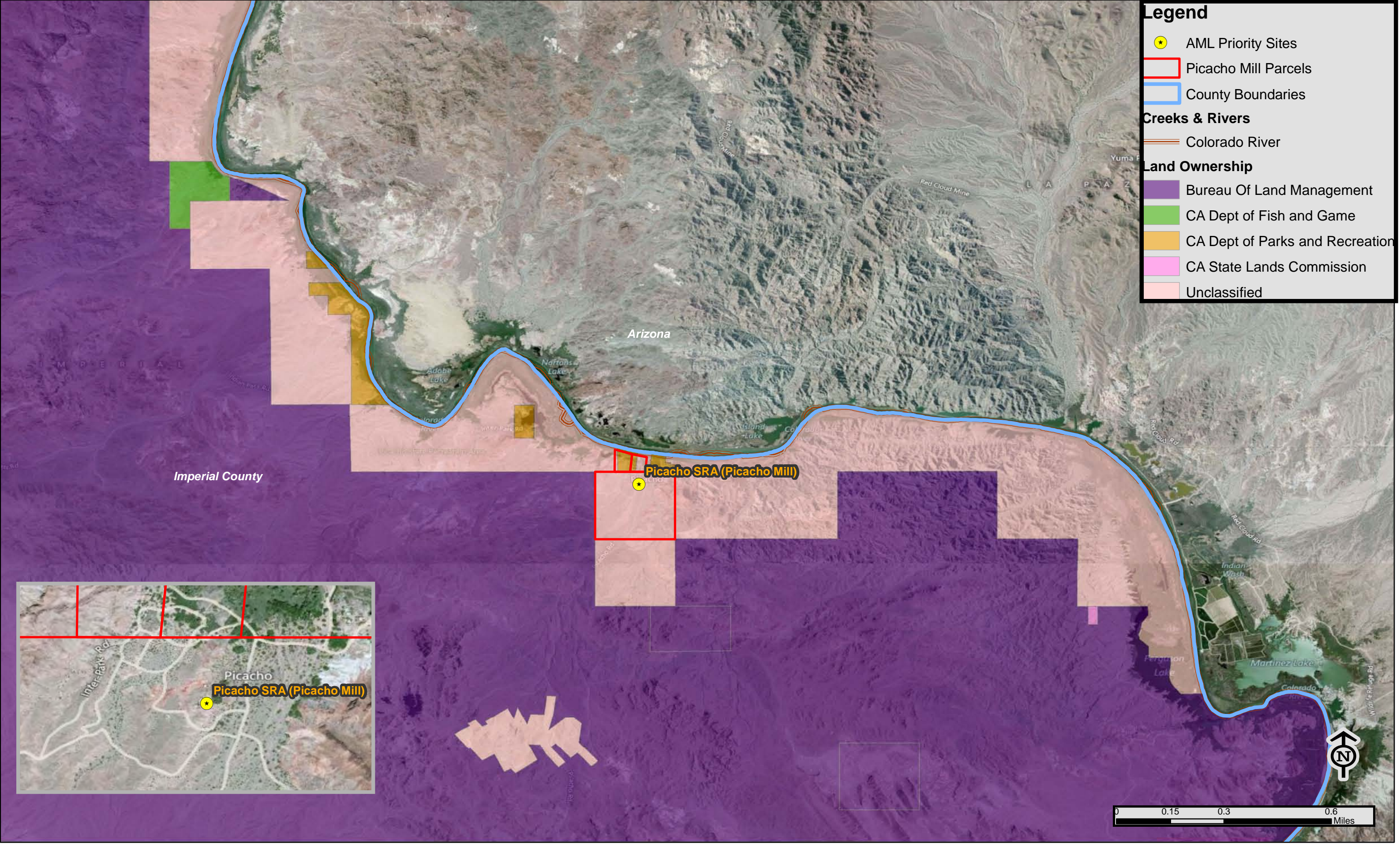
AML Priority Sites-Butte County



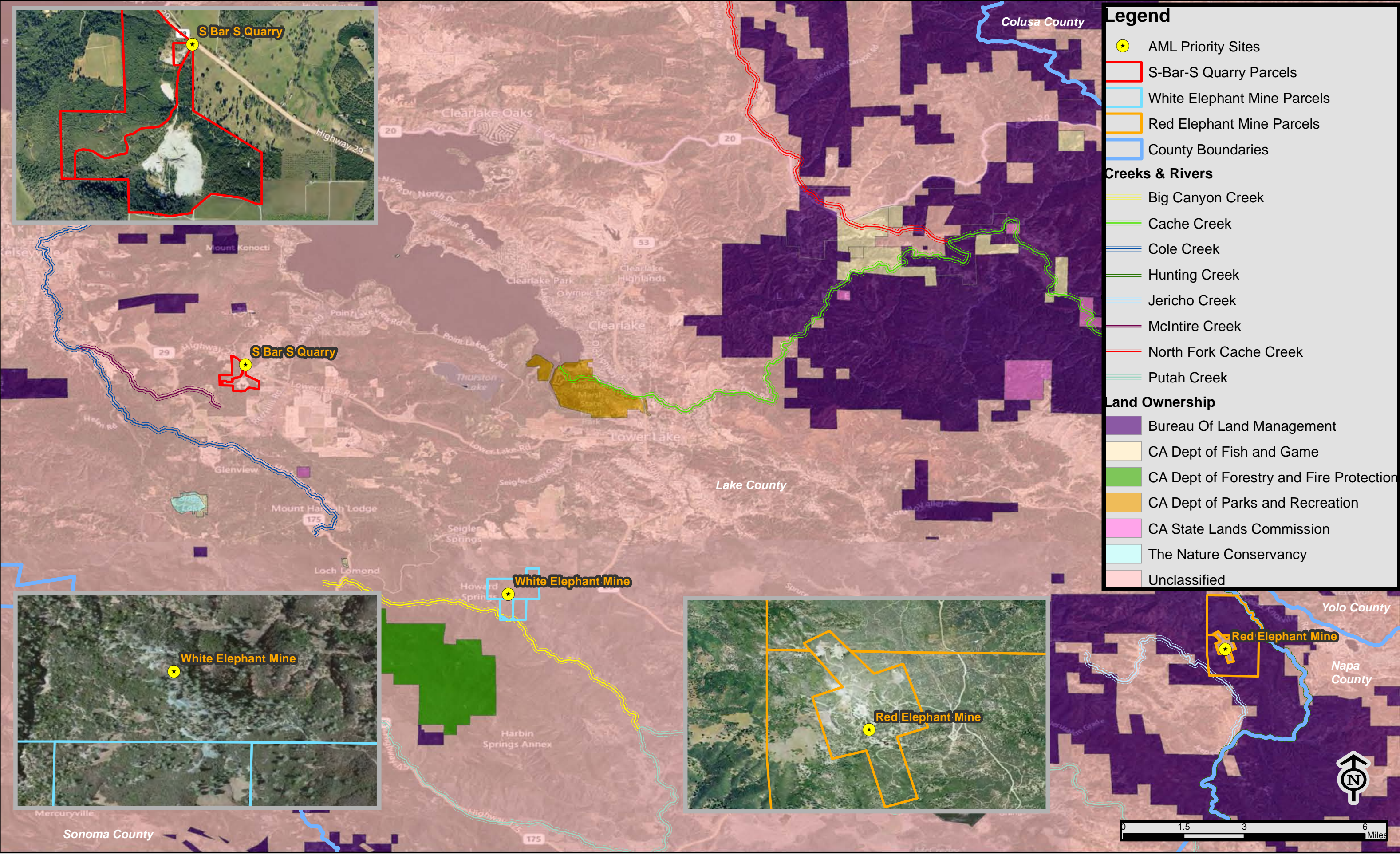
AML Priority Sites: Calaveras County-Copperopolis



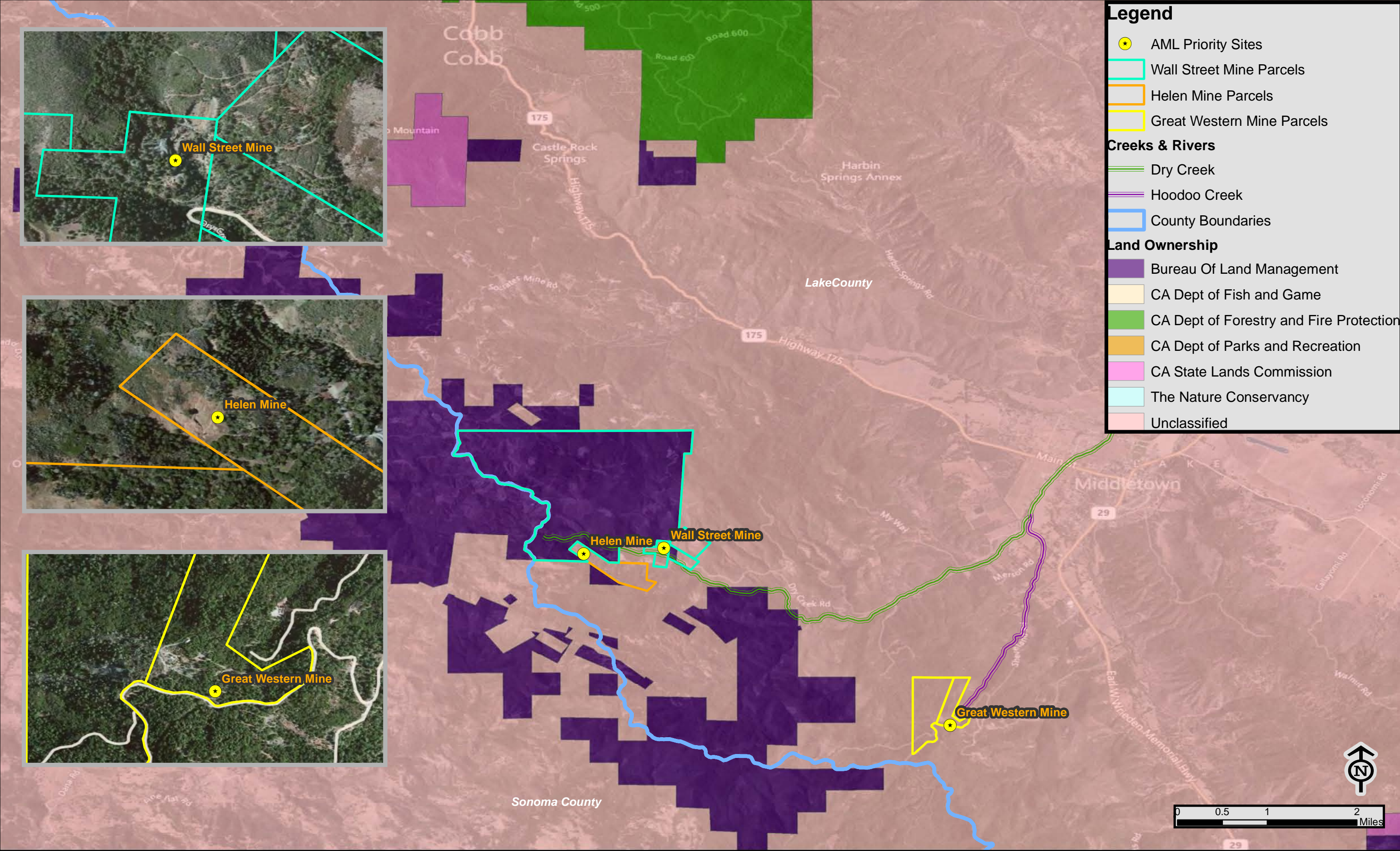
AML Priority Sites: Imperial County



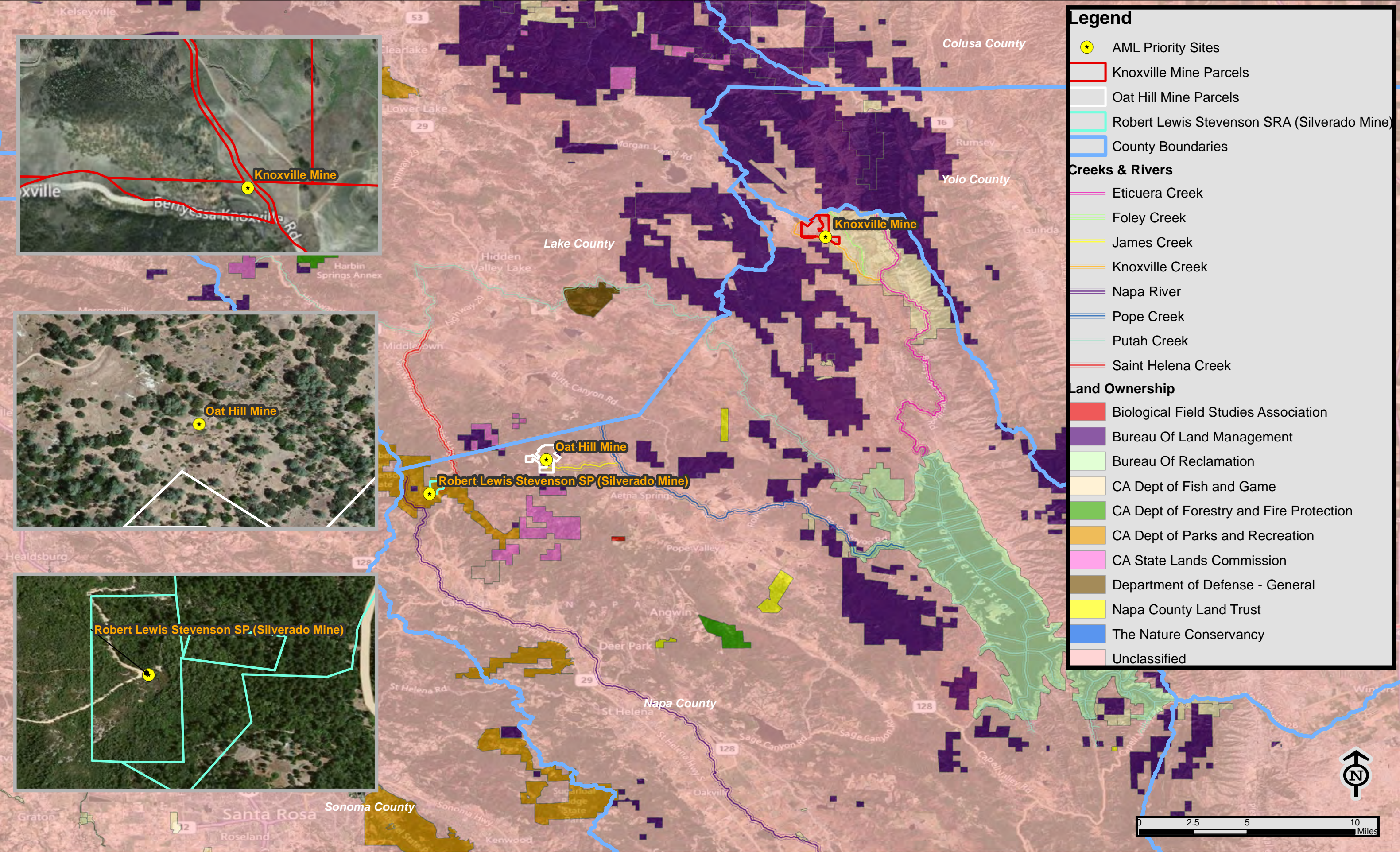
AML Priority Sites: Lake County-North



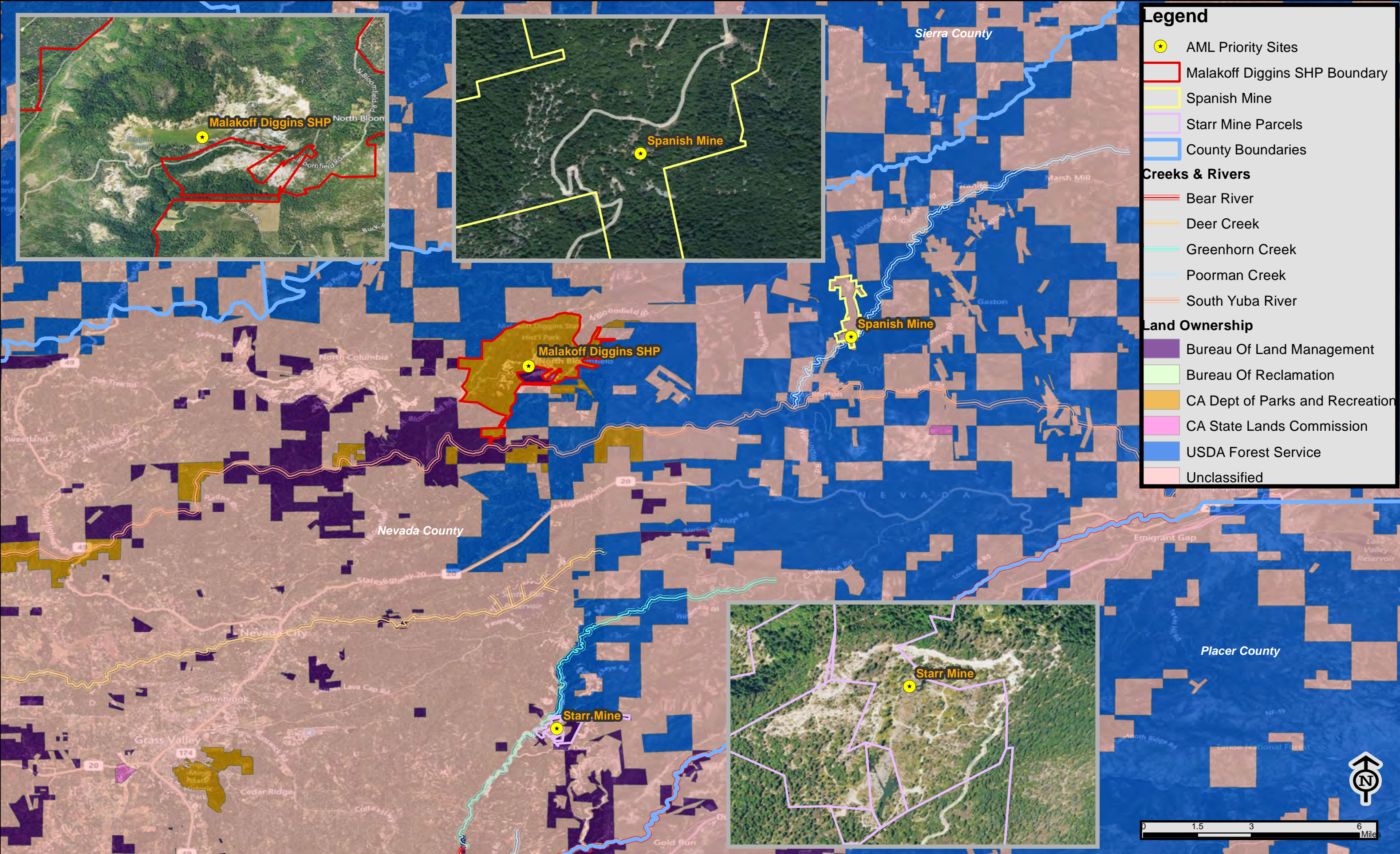
AML Priority Sites: Lake County-South



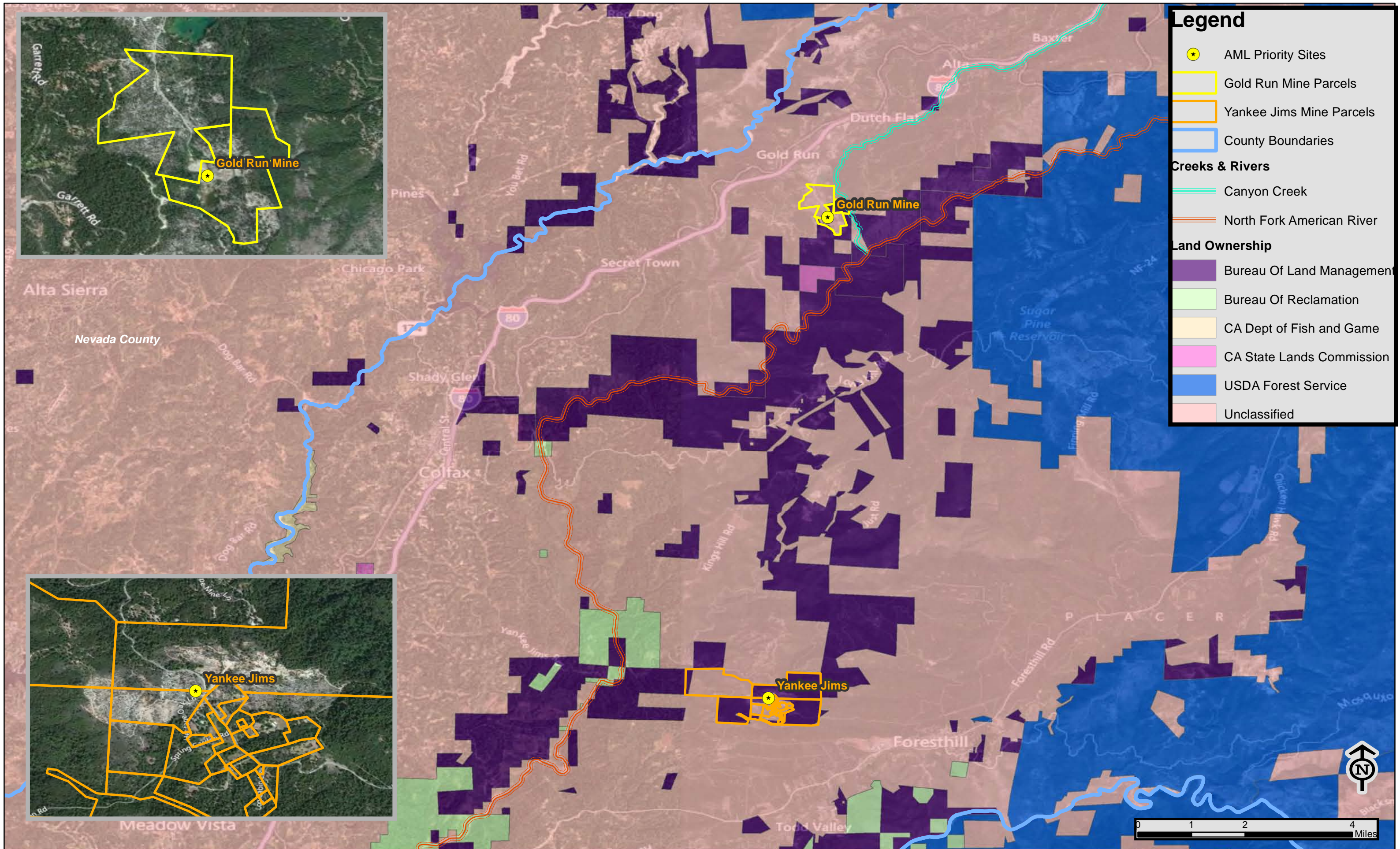
AML Priority Sites-Napa County



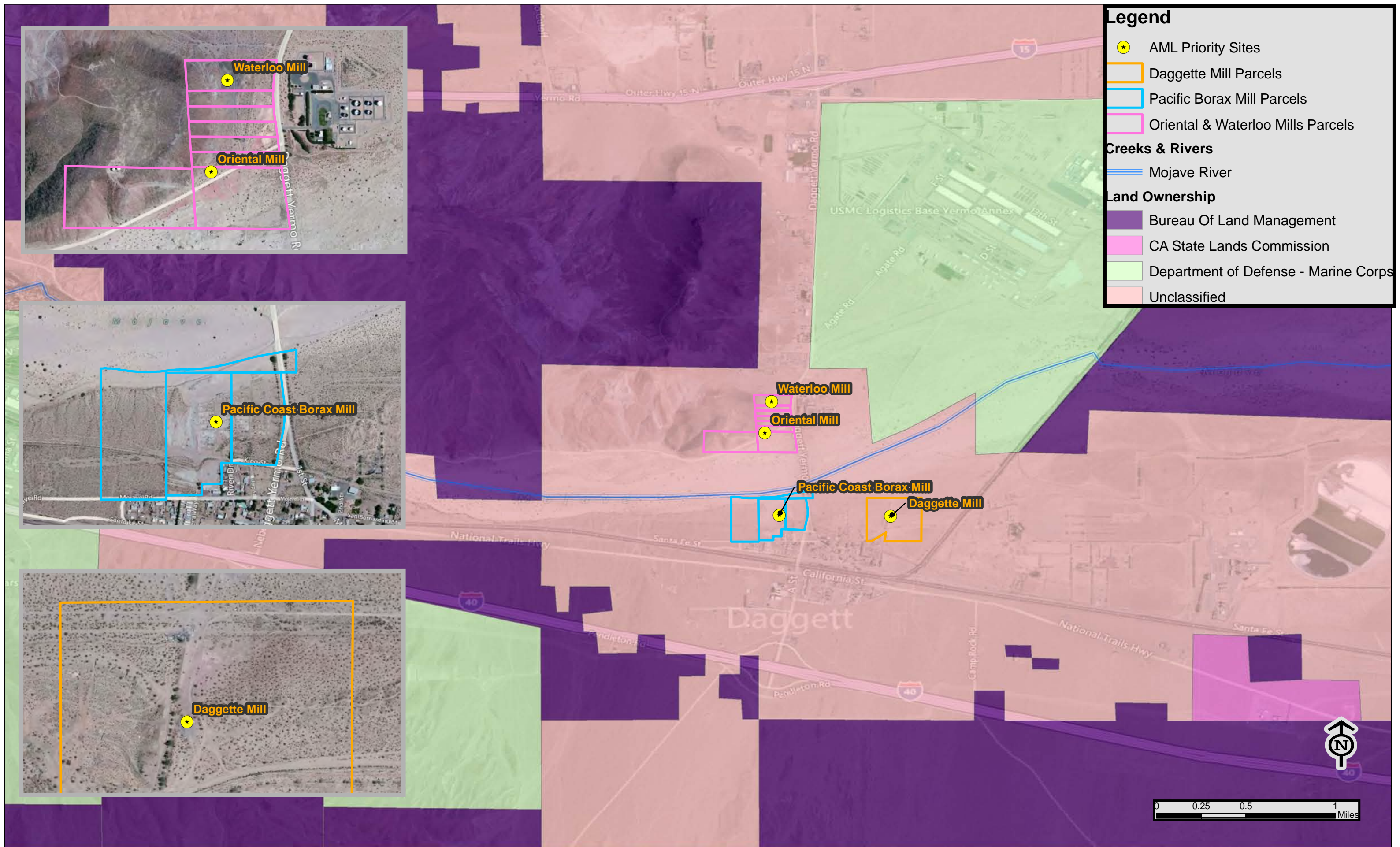
AML Priority Sites-Nevada County



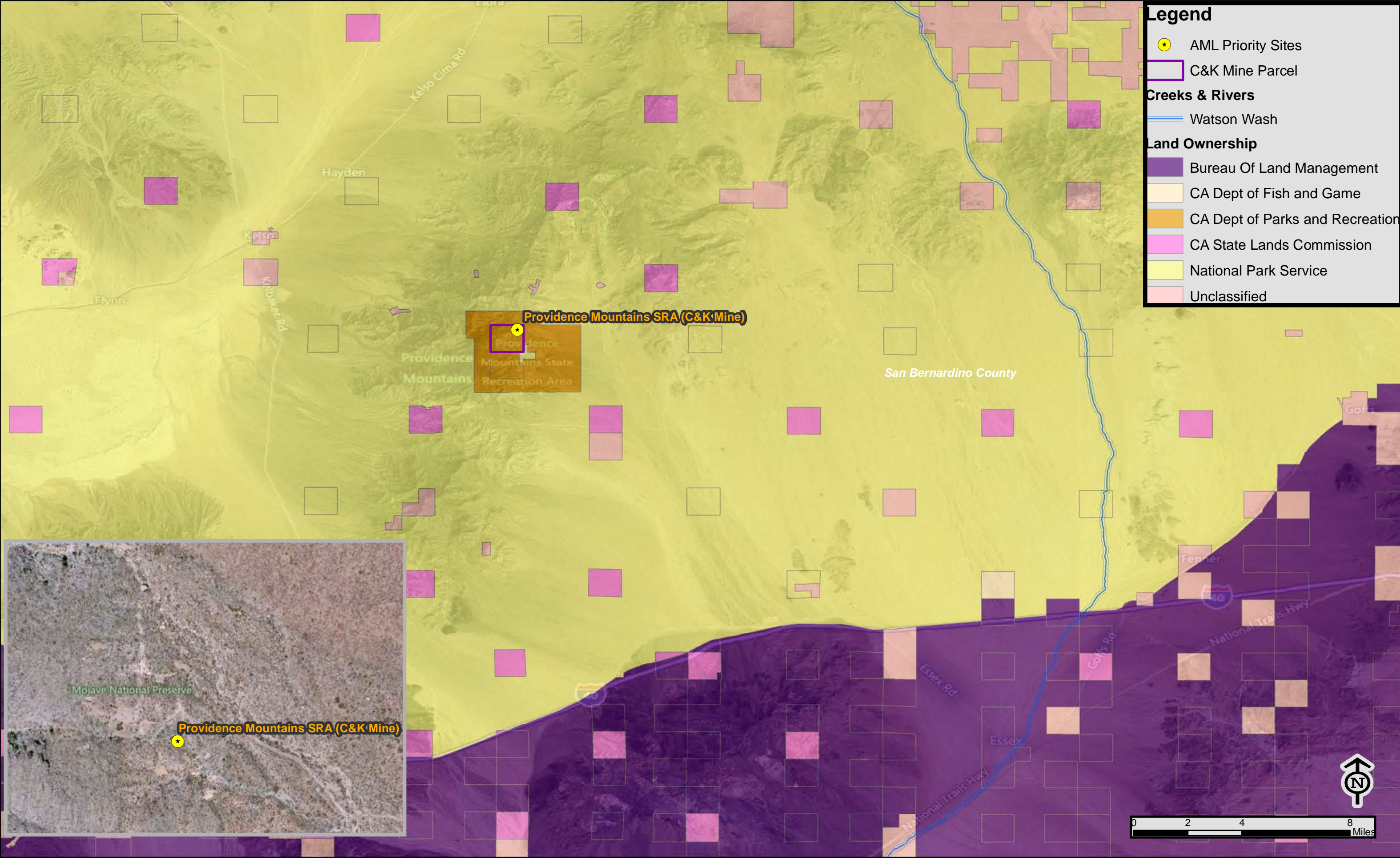
AML Priority Sites-Placer County



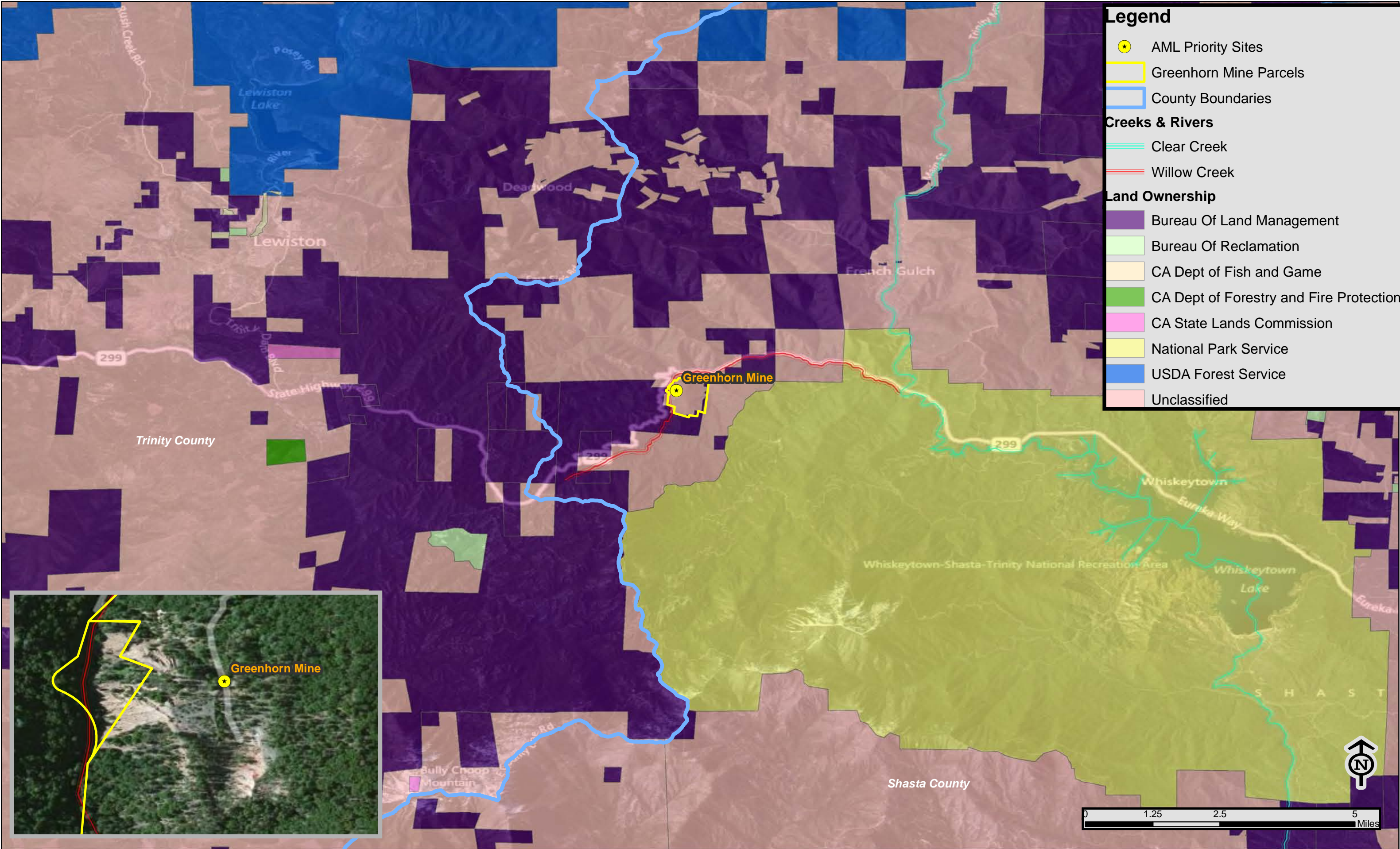
AML Priority Sites: San Bernardino County-Daggette Mills



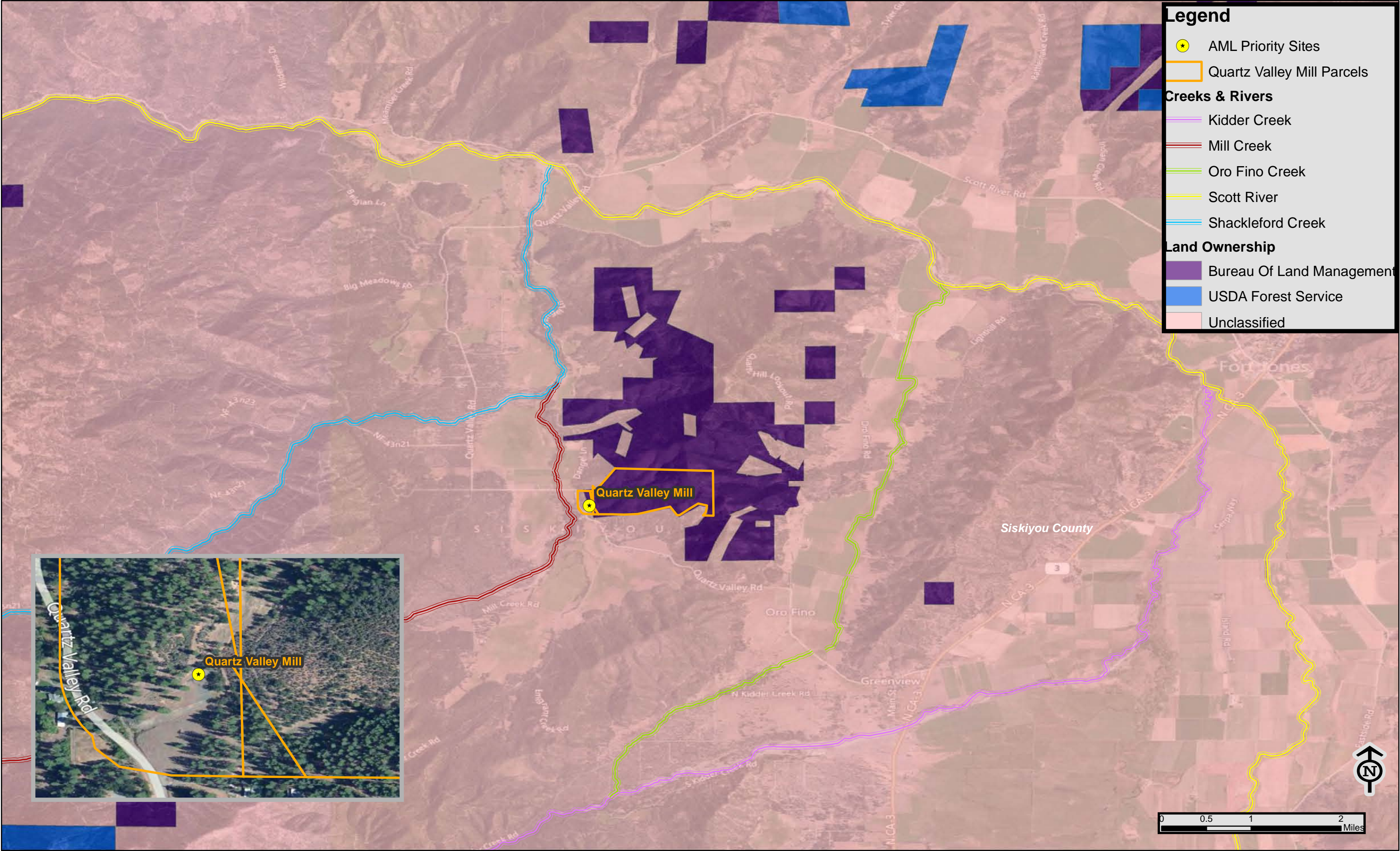
AML Priority Sites: San Bernardino County-C&K Mine



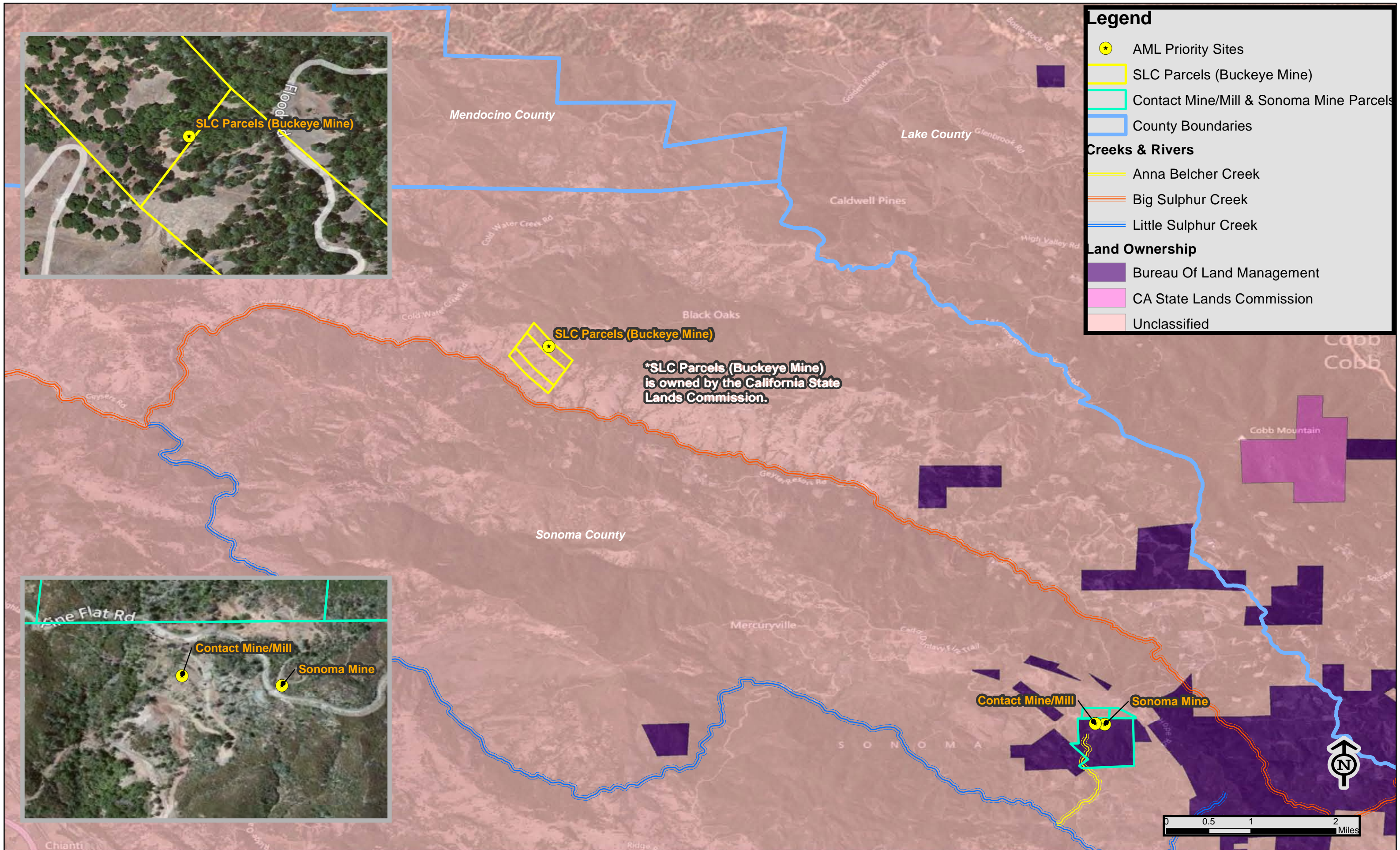
AML Priority Sites-Shasta County



AML Priority Sites-Siskiyou County



AML Priority Sites-Sonoma County



Previous Ref Source

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GEORGE D. NORDENHOLT, Director

DIVISION OF MINES
FERRY BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO

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Bibliography: State Mineralogist Reports I, p. 27; V, p. 96; XI, p. 68; XIII, p. 604; XIV, p. 369. Bulletins 27, p. 117; 78, p. 205.

OTHER COUNTIES AND MINES

Of the 40 counties listed in this report, there are 13 in which quicksilver has been noted, but in insufficient amounts for commercial development. In the remaining counties which have or do produce quicksilver, are listed also, a number of mines and prospects from which there has been no activity, in most instances, for over 20 years; in any case the record of production has been negligible or nothing.

No one can foresee the discovery of a new deposit, the reopening of an old mine, or the development of a prospect into a mine. For this reason, as well as a matter of record, the names of these other counties and mines are herewith grouped together. Anyone desiring additional information is referred to Walter W. Bradley's report on *The Quicksilver Resources of California*, written in 1918 (California State Min. Bur. Bull. 78, 1918).

Quicksilver in non-commercial amounts has been noted in the following counties: Alameda, Calaveras, Glenn, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, San Francisco, San Mateo, Shasta (Clover Creek mine), and Tuolumne.

The following mines and prospects have a record of little or no production and have been inactive for many years:

KERN COUNTY—Tardy claims; **KINGS COUNTY**—Fairview group; **LAKE COUNTY**—Hays mine, Maypole prospect, Middletown prospect, Red Rock and Silver Rock claims, Rich Hill prospect, Shamrock prospect, and White Elephant prospect; **MONTEREY COUNTY**—Dutro mine, and Monte Cristo group; **NAPA COUNTY**—Aetna Extension claims, Calistoga Hot Springs, Mountain mine, Northern Light prospect, Palisades Silver mine, and Philadelphia claims; **SAN BENITO COUNTY**—Bonanza group, Cannon mine, Don Juan and Don Miguel mines, Lone Star mine, and Niesen group; **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**—Desert Mercury group (see State Min. Rept. XXVII, p. 339, 1931), Idria Quicksilver group (see State Min. Rept. XXVII, p. 339, 1931), and Mercury group; **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**—Claus group, Cypress Mt. group, Elizabeth and Winona group, Kismet group, Marquart Ranch prospect, North Star mine, Sunset View mine, Vulture mine, Warren ranch, William Tell mine, and Wittenberg mine; **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**—Mercur claim, and Steward mine; **SANTA CLARA COUNTY**—Bernal mine, Bowie prospect, Brainard prospect, Costello mine, Santa Teresa mine, and Wright mine; **SOLANO COUNTY**—Brownlie mine; **SONOMA COUNTY**—Almaden, Incandescent and Tunnel Site groups, Boston group, Double Star prospect, Great Northern group, Hurley prospect, Lookout group, Lucky Stone group, Maricoma prospect, Napa prospect, Occidental and Healdsburg group, Old Chapman prospect, Pacific group, Walker prospect, and Wall Street prospect; **STANISLAUS COUNTY**—Crocker-Winship prospect, Gigax claims, and Newhall mine; **TRINITY COUNTY**—Anna Bell Cinnabar mine (see State Min. Rept. XXII, p. 66, 1926), Carr prospect, Overland group, and Trinity group.

Previous Ref Source

**Final Site Discovery Report
Cache Creek Watershed
Lake, Yolo, Colusa Counties, California**

**Prepared by:
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Cooperative Agreement Number: V-97999001-1
DTSC Fiscal Years: 2009-2011**

December 2011

**Prepared for:
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
States, Planning, and Assessment Office
San Francisco, California**

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60001421

Weiper Mine

No information was found about this site during the review.

West End Mine

A Site Screening Assessment (SSA) was completed as part of the Discovery Process for this site. The SSA can be found on DTSC's EnviroStor web site at:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60001305

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Order for the site can be viewed at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/colusa/r5-2010-0048.pdf.

Information can also be found on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) web site at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0908937>

Wide Awake Mine

A Site Screening Assessment (SSA) was completed as part of the Discovery Process for this site. The SSA can be found on DTSC's EnviroStor web site at:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=06100005

The RWQCB's order for the Wide Awake Mine can be viewed at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/colusa/r5-2010-0049.pdf

Information can also be found on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) web site at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0908936>

Wilbur Hill Mine

Located between Manzanita Mine and Wilbur Hot Springs on Sulphur Creek. A small producer with unknown workings. Small out put was recorded in 1916 with a small retort and concentrator. Went idle in 1918. Possibly absorbed by the Manzanita Mine, but not indicated on Cal Fed Assessment Map.

Wilbur Springs-Abbott Mine

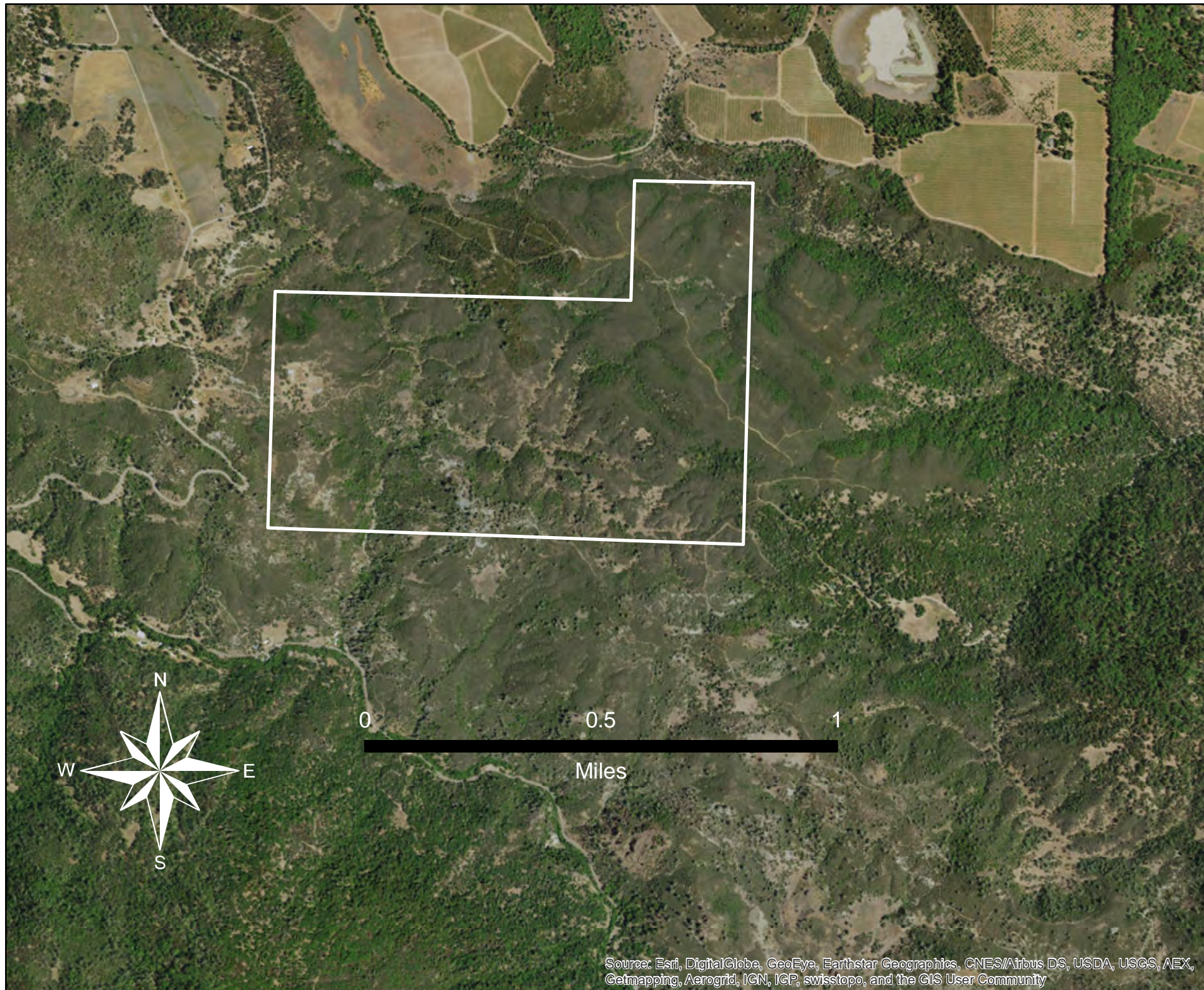
No information was found about this site during the review.

White Elephant Mine

An occurrence that has 200 feet of underground workings that including two 40 foot cross cuts and drifts. A retort was built in 1917 but no ore was reported as produced.

White Elephant Prospect

Current Site Photo



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community